



# NCEXTEND1 Grade 11 Assessment North Carolina Assessment Specifications

---

## Purpose of the Assessments

- The NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment at Grade 11 measure students' proficiency on the [North Carolina Extended Content Standards](#) adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in February 2011.
- Assessment results will be used for school accountability under the accountability model and for federal reporting purposes.

## Developing Assessments

- North Carolina educators were recruited and trained to write new items. The diversity among the item writers and their knowledge of the current standards was addressed during recruitment. Trained North Carolina educators also review items and suggest improvements, if necessary. The use of North Carolina educators to develop and review items strengthens the content validity of the items.
- For an in-depth explanation of the test development process see State Board Policy [Multiple-Choice Test Development](#) (TEST-013) or reference the [Test Development Process: Item, Selection, and Form Development document](#).

## Prioritization of Standards

- Members of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI)/Test Development Section invited North Carolina educators to collaborate and develop recommendations for a prioritization of standards indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for test design.
- Subsequently, Standards, Curriculum and Instruction and test development staff from the NCDPI met to review the recommendations from the teacher panels and to adopt final weight distributions across the domains for each grade level.
- Some content standards in the Extended Content Standards will not be directly assessed in the assessments because either (1) the standard cannot be appropriately assessed during a limited time assessment using multiple-choice or (2) the standard is better assessed through another, more inclusive standard.
- *Table 1* describes the range of items by content area that will appear on the NCEXTEND1 Grade 11 Alternate Assessment. NCEXTEND1 Grade 11 is divided into three sections (1, 2, 3) based on content area. The chart below shows the order of the content areas and items.

*Table 1: NCEXTEND1 Grade 11 Content Area Distribution*

<b>Section</b>	<b>Content Area</b>	<b>Items</b>
1	English Language Arts/Reading	Reading Selection & Items 1–5
2	Mathematics	Items 6–10
3	Science	Items 11–15

### **Cognitive Rigor and Item Complexity**

- Items for the NCEXTEND1 Grade 11 assessments were designed, developed, and classified to ensure that the cognitive rigor of the operational test forms align to the cognitive complexity and demands of the [North Carolina Extended Content Standards](#). These items will require students to not only recall information, but also apply concepts and skills and make decisions.

### **Testing Structure and Administration**

- The NCEXTEND1 Grade 11 assessment may be administered over several days or may be completed in one session. The assessor must use professional judgment to determine an appropriate length of time for a student’s assessment administration.
- The Assessment is administered individually to each student. The time required by a student to complete the assessment will be unique to each individual student, depending on the student’s ability to maintain focus, medical condition, and/or fatigue factor(s).

### **Supplemental Materials**

The following checklist contains the required materials assessors will need for the test administration:

- the Assessment Guide for the North Carolina NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment at Grade 11
- one Assessor Booklet per student for the assessed content area
- one answer sheet per student
- one test card kit per content area
- one Selection Booklet
- extra, sharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers or other student-specific writing utensils
- a supply of scratch paper
- a four-function calculator with memory key
- counters/objects (not required by the assessment but may be used if this is the way in which a student is routinely taught)
- one North Carolina General Purpose Header Sheet for each class or testing group of students
- sufficient vinyl bags for repackaging the test materials to be scored

**Test Cycle and Delivery Mode**

- NCEXTEND1 at grade 11 is paper/pencil only and administered February 23–26, 2021 and March 1–5, 2021, with makeup March 9–12, and March 15–19, 2021.
- The alternate assessments are only provided in English. Native language translation versions are not available. North Carolina [G.S. §115C-81.45\(a\)](#) requires all teachers and principals to conduct classes except foreign language classes in English.